

## Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 L-03 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 ICA-20  
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 AID-05 /100 W  
-----063561 202005Z /41

R 192052Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5787  
DEA HQTS WASHDC

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 3913

STATE/SNM; HQTS/ENOA

E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS SNAR, AR  
SUBJECT US-ARGENTINE BINATIONAL NARCOTICS COMMISSION

1. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE INCREASED SERIOUSNESS ON THE PART OF THE GOA IN THE AREA OF COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS CONTROL. THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL NARCOTICS COUNCIL (CONATON) A POLICY LEVEL GROUP COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM SIX DIFFERENT MINISTRIES, HAS SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING EXECUTIVE ORDERS BARRING THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES AND MARIJUANA. IT HAS ALSO OBTAINED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER IMPLEMENTING A PREVIOUSLY LEGISLATED BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF COCA LEAVES. ALSO, THE BUENOS AIRES DISTRICT OFFICE OF DEA HAS A VERY CLOSE ADVISORY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CONATON.

2. BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER, VICE ADMIRAL BARDI, FOLLOWED BY WORKING SESSIONS BETWEEN THE DEA SAIC AND THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CONATON, HAVE RESULTED IN AGREEMENT TO FORMALLY REESTABLISH THE US-ARGENTINE BINATIONAL NARCOTICS COMMISSION. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PREVIOUS COMMISSION,

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WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1972, WAS TOO LARGE AND UNWIELDY. DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING ALL OF THE MEMBERS TOGETHER FOR MEETINGS BROUGHT ABOUT ITS DEMISE. THE NEW COMMISSION WILL BE CO-CHAIRED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND THE PUBLIC WELFARE MINISTER AND WILL HAVE SIX OTHER MEMBERS, THREE FROM THE US MISSION AND THREE GOA MEMBERS.

3. A CEREMONY FORMAL REINSTATING THE BINATIONAL NAR  
COTICS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 16, 1978. IT  
IS ANTICIPATED THAT SUCH TOPICS AS IMPROVED COORDINATION  
OF ARGENTINAS NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORT THROUGH  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL NARCOTICS DEPARTMENT, OR AT  
LEAST A NATIONAL OFFICE FOR COORDINATION OF NARCOTIC LAW  
ENFORCEMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED. SUCH A MOVE WOULD GREATLY  
ENHANCE THE US-ARGENTINE COOPERATIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL  
EFFORT.  
CASTRO

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, COMMISSIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
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**Draft Date:** 19 may 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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